

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3 and 10-16 as follows:

1. (*Currently amended*) A method of authenticating a shipping transaction, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a smartcard and a smartcard reader;

acquiring biometric information and shipping information relating to a customer;

encrypting the shipping information using the biometric information, and

storing the encrypted result on the smartcard and in a shipping database;

providing the smartcard to the customer so that the customer ~~may~~can access the database and change shipping information; and

if an item is shipped to the customer, requesting the customer to supply the biometric information to authorize the transaction.

2. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric information is a fingerprint.

3. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ biometric information acts as a private key ~~(in identity-based encryption)~~.

4. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes the identity of the customer.

5. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes a shipping address.

6. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes an alternate shipping address.

7. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes a telephone number or other customer contact information.

8. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping database is remote and accessed through a cell phone, land line, or Internet-connected computer.
9. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the result is also encrypted using a private key and a company public key.
10. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including ~~the step of~~ storing identity-based encrypted (IBE) data on the smartcard.
11. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including ~~the step of~~ storing a customer address on the smartcard.
12. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including ~~the step of~~ storing a phone number on the smartcard.
13. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including ~~the step of~~ storing a public key on the smartcard.
14. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including ~~the step of~~ storing a fingerprint on the smartcard.
15. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including ~~the step of~~ storing a private key on the smartcard.
16. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including ~~the step of~~ storing a company public key.